The Maryland Fruit Grower

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Edited by the Secretary, A. F. Vierheller, Extension Horticulturist

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THE FORTY-FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING

President J. G. Harrison stated that although 1941 was filled with problems of labor shortage, gluts, drought, and insect damage, we will have to look ahead to other troubles, and make sacrifices. We will have to plan well in advance for all operations, and will have to do our utmost to help in the war effort by producing fruit and any other possible products. Our big aim should be to do all we can to help the Allies make quick work of the Axis.

F. P. Cullinan, U. S. Department of Agriculture, reported that in 1930 cherries and peaches were less affected than apples by drought during the past summer. In the 1940 drought there was heavy loss of Ben Davis trees, with less injury to Rome, York and Winesap trees. In spite of the injury the 1931 peach crop was the largest in history. Apples produced heavily, probably due to more spur formation, and the good rains that occurred. The 1941 drought was spotty, being worse than 1930 in some sections. The trees went into winter in hard, dormant condition. Freezing tests indicated that peach buds were in good shape. Mr. Cullinan suggested that in 1942 we turn cover crops under sooner; prune a little more severely on drought-affected trees, and use some boron on trees that showed corky fruit last season.

I. C. Haut, University of Maryland, thoroughly reviewed the national changes in apple varieties during the past 10 to 20 years, covering the major apple growing regions. Particular emphasis was given the fact that tremendous increase in recent years of Delicious, McIntosh and certain other primarily dessert-type varieties has added upward of 15 million bushels to the early winter market to be moved largely in fresh fruit channels. This has added materially to the marketing problems. The production of early winter varieties will continue to increase for some time to come, despite some further decline in total production. This decline will continue to be at the expense primarily of late-keeping varieties and to a lesser extent, the summer varieties.

J. H. Gourley, Ohio State University, found Maryland apple production more steady than that of Ohio and Virginia. He stated that we should have 200 to 250 bushels production per acre, and that our acre production is increasing due to better methods. Large trees increase cultural problems, yet a survey of the Northeast showed a value of $15.00 per tree, 23 years old, at its peak. He presented a summary of replies to a survey made among growers in New England and the Middle West, which indicated that while variety made some difference and "conditions" had their effects, the growers felt that peach trees had reached the marginal limit at from 12 to 15 years, and apple trees might become unprofitable at 25 to 40 years of age, and some varieties as early as 15 to 20 years.

R. S. Marsh, West Virginia University, reported a lag in tree removal,

and felt that growers should remove Duchess, Gano, Maiden Blush, Ben Davis, Winter Banana and Stark, and other trees that were unprofitable for any reason. Replanting should be done with caution and thought. Staymared, Gallia Beauty, Jonathan (on weaker soils where blight would not be a factor), Delicious, Turley (possibly), and Lodi might be considered for planting. Grimes, Transparent and Golden Delicious were not favorably considered as replants unless local conditions were good. He urged that soils be not depleted and production be as efficient as conditions would allow.

D. S. Matheson, North Carolina Department of Markets, stated that South Carolina has a great planting of trees and can produce about twice as many peaches, and North and South Carolina have a total of 9 million trees. Within a few years we can expect these states and Georgia to produce as many peaches as are now produced in Eastern Seaboard and the South-western states. Sales promotion is needed, but experience shows that unless growers are in bad shape, they will not participate. The South has had some very poor stuff, and a sales drive requires high quality fruit. North Carolina has increased sales 200% through a sales organization. He warned growers to get together in a sales effort, and to clean house of a lot of poor varieties. He cited the work of the orange growers in increasing per capita consumption of their fruit to 40 pounds, but growers give 7½c per box to the advertising fund, and tangerine growers pay 5c per box, and grapefruit growers give 3c per box.

Carroll R. Miller, Appalachian Apple Service, told of the skeleton organization of a Peach Merchandising Committee which had worked up a home canning program during the 1941 peach season, and which was now working toward a National Peach Council for advertising and publicity work. However, he stressed the necessity for research work in nutritional values of peaches, citing the great amount of work that has been done with apple health values.

Several growers discussed the ways of combatting labor shortage. Stanley Fulton, Hancock, is operating with as little labor as is possible to do a good job. His year-round labor is housed in tenant houses, and he keeps the houses in good repair, and has installed as many conveniences as possible, considering it a good investment in both property and in keeping his men satisfied. He is building some 5-room houses with low maintenance cost. In picking season, girls work on young trees, using 6-foot ladders, and are paid more than the packing house labor. The York and Stayman varieties were moved to the cannery to spread the harvest season more evenly.

W. Lee Allen, Salisbury, stated that he was also making living quarters for the orchard men more comfortable. He has cut out all doubtful trees, reducing apple acreage from 600 acres to 125 acres, and harvests more good apples from the small acreage than from the former heavy acreage. He stressed better care of machinery, and use of more efficient machinery. There seemed to be little chance of reducing pruning labor, but orchards were being put into sod where possible to cut cultivation costs. There seemed to be a light bud-set for 1942, and if blossoming was too light, he intended spraying off the blossoms, if the crop prospect was too light to warrant taking care of it. Even in heavy blossoming, it was possible to spray off some of the bloom to reduce thinning labor. The "harvest sprays" were a good means of spreading the picking season. Colored women with families were the best workers he could get, or married colored men were also good. He intended not to economize on sprays, as he felt that a big yield of No. 1

fruit was the profit-maker. Speaking of the new Speed-Sprayer, Mr. Allen reported that so far, it has given fast and thorough coverage, giving less fruit and foliage injury, being easy to handle, and it may economize on material. There were some unfavorable factors that might be considered, among them being initial cost, difficulty in adjusting for spraying young trees, and the uncertainty of the life of such a sprayer. However, these factors were not considered serious. The apple crop on the Allen orchards had 20% more No. 1 apples in 1941 than in 1940.

George S. Langford, University of Maryland, reported that in addition to all the older methods in Japanese beetle control, such as trapping, soil treatments, spraying and cultural practices, the University Laboratory had produced over 30,000 pounds of milky white disease dust, and this dust had been applied over 4,500 square miles of the state, to spread the disease among beetles. Also, several parasites had been introduced to kill off the beetle. No effective sprays have been developed, and we can only expect to repel the beetle by spraying, although considerable killing may result, if sprays are properly applied.

A. B. Groves, Winchester Research Laboratory, discussed the use of sodium dinitro-ortho-cresol as a spray applied to the soil to control apple scab. This material is commercially known as Elgetol. Dr. Groves felt that the extra expense involved, along with the possibility of poor control, made this material risky to use, under present conditions.

W. S. Hough, Winchester Research Laboratory, stated that insects seem to come in cycles. Scurfy scale seemed to be decreasing in Virginia. A 3% oil-dinitro spray, or 4% oil spray in dormant season for two successive years was recommended, for control. Terrapin scale on peach could be controlled by a thorough spray of 4% oil. Also, a 4% oil spray about March seemed to be a good control for red mite. This insect was reported to be very light in Virginia orchards this year. The use of summer oil sprays applied in June delays fruit color and may not always give good control of red mite. Mealy bug on apple is decreasing in Virginia. It attacks vigorous trees. No good control is known, but a fungus disease seems to be reducing this insect. The use of ethylene dichloride for peach borer control was not recommended, due to danger of injury. PDB crystals were recommended, also the use of these crystals dissolved in oil, and applied to soil around tree base.

Stanley Fulton reported that his spraying was effective because of use of good equipment and close supervision. Castillo Graham, University of Maryland, stated that too many orchards were under-equipped for a good spraying job. He urged growers to scrape trees and band them in June, if moth was bad, also to prune so as to allow a better spray coverage, and to get chemicals and machinery repair parts as soon as possible.

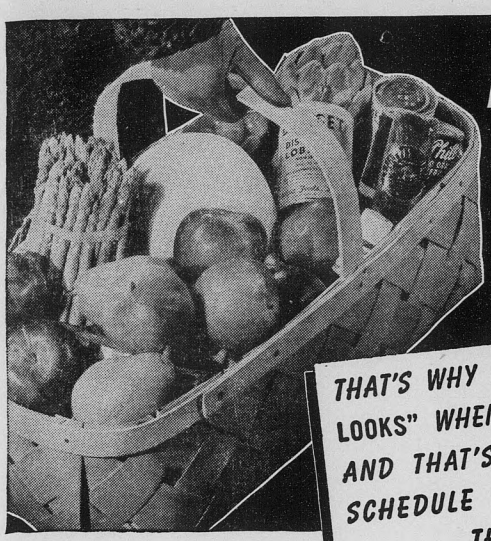
C. W. Hitz, University of Maryland, described experiments with water-soluble wax as affecting storage life of apples. Using Golden Delicious and Grimes varieties, pre-ripened (allowed to develop yellow color), at 60° F. then waxed at various periods and placed in cold storage, he found that waxed apples shriveled less. Apples not pre-ripened before waxing tended to scald more. Date of harvest influenced the weight loss due to shriveling, and August 30th seemed to be the best date of harvest, in his experiments. The waxing cost was about 1c per bushel. Apples, peaches and cherries are being waxed in California with good results.

A. L. Schrader, University of Maryland, reported experimental findings over the years, concerning the use of various fertilizers on apple and peach trees, summarizing as follows: *Tree Feeding for Direct Use of Tree*—Apply under spread of tree and few feet beyond (except in older orchards where roots occupy all area). Use: *Nitrogen fertilizers,* fall or spring. *Potash,* spring, followed by disk or plow. *Boron,* every 3 years in spring. Apply boron or potash alone only where actual deficiency exists. *Manure mulch,* fall or spring. Same for manure top-dressing. *Mixed fertilizers* such as 10-6-4, fall or spring. *Soil Feeding for Indirect Benefit to Tree*—Apply over entire area or orchard with drill, or broadcast by hand or with machine. Use: *Mixed fertilizers* 4-12-4, 4-16-4. 3-12-6, at time of seeding cover crop or *mixed fertilizers* 4-12-4, 4-16-4, 0-14-6, in spring or fall on sod orchards after disking. *Superphosphate* 20% spring or fall on sod orchards after disking. *Tree and Soil Feeding for Older Trees*—Applied between tree rows or over entire area. Use: *Mixed Fertilizer* 10-6-4 or 16-10-8, or *mulch* under trees or over entire area, or apply *manure top-dressing* or *single element fertilizers* using any of these materials in either fall or spring.

Earl French, Atlantic Commission Company, stated that agriculture had not shared proportionately in our national income. Farmers had increased their efficiency 40% in 20 years, but marketing was still confused, and there were many hungry people. Agriculture will do its part, and will have hardships in this war. There are one-third of the people in this country under-fed, due to lack of purchasing power and proper distribution of foodstuffs. Since 1918, consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables has doubled, but should be doubled again. We must educate the public in use of fruits and vegetables; encourage growers to produce a more standardized product and try to bring markets and growers closer together. Fruit growers have received over a million dollars worth of free advertising from dieticians, and the door is open for effective grower-sponsored and supported advertising. Markets are full of poorly-graded stuff, and the fruit pack of some states has been found to average 38% off-grade over a 10 year period. We need either packing schools or central packing houses in some sections. Our fruit passes through too many hands. Of the consumer's dollar, the grower gets 35c and 65c goes to distribution. Bad routings, high trucking costs, waste, delay, and crowded terminals are a part of the trouble. We need mass distribution on more efficient basis. Of the total 31 million dollar value of Maryland's fruits and vegetables, the growers receive only 12½ million dollars. We should work hard to educate the public to use our products as a health means, also must do a better job of growing, grading and packing, and we must keep the small grower in mind, for there are a lot like him in our industry. We must work together for the good of our industry and for each other.

Henry Miller, Paw Paw, West Virginia, stated that labor constituted 41% of their orchard costs or of a total cost of 68½c for producing, packing and storing a bushel of apples, 28c went for labor. He advocated hiring a good, well-paid orchard manager. All labor operations are divided into classes according to importance, and certain jobs are done first, but emergencies are provided for. Mr. Miller stated that apples will be produced during the war by proper management and hard work.

Stanley M. Fulton was elected President, Dwight T. Walker, Vice-President, and A. F. Vierheller, Secretary-Treasurer.



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Resolutions were adopted requesting the inclusion of use of sweet clover as a cover crop in Soil Conservation practices; pledging full support of the Society and its individual members to our Government in the present war and defense effort; favoring national legislation in control of cull crops in the fresh fruit channels; urging growers to remove marginal trees; expressing regret in the death of Phillip H. Gold; and extending the thanks and gratitude of the Society to all those individuals and agencies who had contributed to the success of the meetings.

New members appointed to the Executive Committee were: Wm. C. Main, D. Eldred Rinehart, and E. C. McFadden.

Attendance was exceptionally good, and the commercial and educational exhibits attracted much attention and interest.

SLAP A JAP. BUY DEFENSE STAMPS.

THE GUY THAT RELAXES IS HELPING THE AXIS

We are at war—an "all out" war. Shortage of labor, equipment and materials are our part to endure in the tremendous defense effort. There will be some difficulties in getting certain supplies, and to give some idea of the present picture we summarize briefly some of the conditions outlined in Bulletin No. 63 of the National Apple Institute on February 3, 1942. The War Production Board, Office of Agricultural Defense and Office of Price Administration have given the following information: Nails are very scarce. Plans were to have each grower file application for a "preference rating", but it is hoped that such procedure will be simplified in some way. Fertilizers? Well, a lot of nitrogen is used in munitions, and ships for carrying this material are very few. The supply of nitrate soda, sulfate of ammonia, cyanamide and other forms of nitrates for farm use will be about 50% of normal, and in some cases as low as 20%. Provisions have been made to release ample supplies of high-nitrogen mixed fertilizers. Growers should plan to use these mixed forms or grow legumes as cover crops. And now those spray materials—A sufficient supply of arsenate of lead is in prospect. Copper sulfate will be ample. There is plenty of raw sulphur for making lime-sulfur, dusts, and sulfur compounds, but it is not known just how long the factories may continue in making up these materials for use. Fluorine compounds may be scarce. Nicotine sulfate is under price control, at higher price to insure continued production. No price control has been placed over other spray materials, and any increases requested will be closely examined, and increases allowed only where supported by facts. Production of new sprayers and other machinery will be cut to 83% of the 1940 supply, but replacements and repair parts will be 140% of the 1940 supply. In the package line, most of the difficulties are cleared up excepting the nail supply. Ammunition containers have first call, but the box manufacturers seem to be able to handle normal fruit package requirements. The basket men can handle the demand, if they get some idea of demand far enough in advance. Burlap bags are scarce, and likely there will be some change over to wooden vegetable containers, but how extensive is not known. Labor is a riddle. Possibly a supply of women and high-school students will have to be considered. These are times when we chafe at a lot of indecision, duplication and tangled conditions, but we may have even worse problems as time passes. So we must remember the sign that hung in a saloon in the old Wild West,

When Mr. J. A. Swing says, "I have not had a single penny's repair cost on my Iron Age sprayer," he means every word of it. For Mr. Swing thinks this is a fine recommendation for any machine that gets the hard usage he gives it spraying eighty odd acres of orchard in his 140-acre farm near Winchester, Va.

Mr. Swing has a skid type sprayer with a 400-gallon tank and a 20-gallon high pressure Victory pump. To him, one of the particularly pleasing Iron Age features is the screen which keeps residue from clogging up the spray gun. "I am well satisfied with my Iron Age," he says.

Mr. Swing is not alone in his feelings about the service and dependability of Iron Age sprayers. Growers everywhere praise the cost-cutting performance of Iron Age . . . their crop's best insurance. There's an Iron Age sprayer for every orchard or grove operator — write for catalog.

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which read: "Don't shoot the piano player. He's doing the best he can."

The whole situation calls for careful planning, and such plans must be flexible for there will be many changes to make. Real plans should be made from pruning time on through the season. How many sprays? How much and what kind of fertilizer? Kind of cultivation, and how often, or will we seed a cover crop and just mow it? There are just a few plans to make.

Machinery is an important item. Don't forget these tires. There are thieves at work. All unused machinery with tires, should be blocked off the floor to take the weight off the tires, especially if the floor is of cinders, which may cause tire rot. One spray manufacturer advises that sprayers be used only when necessary, and at pressures sufficient to do the job, and no higher. Store sprayers out of the weather, and wash them carefully after each using. Examine them frequently for adjustments. Don't have a chattering regulator; keep chains and belts at proper tension; start and stop machines with care and avoid sudden engagement of the gears. Oil and grease frequently, just as if this was the last spray that could be bought. Of course, if a new sprayer is needed, get it if finances allow. But have the sprayer ready to go when the time comes. Be careful with hose, and also remember that guns and nozzles are made of brass that is becoming harder to get. Get those repair parts NOW. Sprayers are a front line of defense. Keep 'em rollin' and keep 'em runnin'.

Food is going to help in winning this war and apples and peaches are among the wholesome, healthful foods. Fruit growers are going to produce these foods so necessary in keeping our nation and our fighting forces in trim. Good Americans are a tough and hardy people. Fruit growers are good Americans, and they have shown that they are plenty tough in taking punishment. All of them are willing to take more, if that means victory—and somehow there is a feeling that they are going to do a real job in spite of restrictions, priorities, scarcities, shortages, bugs, diseases, weather or whatever comes. Somebody started this war; let's finish it. What are we waiting for? It's already later than we think. Let's go.

HIT HITLER WITH A DEFENSE BOND.

THE NATIONAL PEACH COUNCIL

Last June during a meeting of the National Apple Planning Committee and National Apple Institute, a special meeting of peach growers was held at which several states were represented. A temporary Peach Merchandising Committee was set up, and this organization carried on a peach publicity campaign during the past season, stressing Canning for Defense.

Several States appointed representatives to meet at Charlotte, N. C., on February 4 and 5 to determine the advisibility of forming a permanent organization for publicizing peaches. Stanley M. Fulton, President of Maryland State Horticultural Society, and S. B. Shaw, Chief, Maryland State Department of Markets, attended the conference and briefly, the outcome of the meeting is as follows: The states of Alabama, Georgia, North and South Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and West Virginia, were represented. Cull peaches were fully discussed and growers were agreed that the cull problem must be solved. The National Peach Council was set up with Carroll R. Miller as Chairman.

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Two temporary directors were elected from each state to act until incorporation. Maryland Directors are: G. W. Gardenhour and S. M. Fulton. The Executive Committee is composed of one man from Georgia, North and South Carolina, Pennsylvania and Virginia, this committee to proceed with organization and incorporation. A budget of $12,000 was set up of which a half is to be paid by March 15. Practically all states pledged to raise their allotments. Marketing agreements were discussed for Georgia and the Carolinas as a way toward more orderly marketing, these agreements to be subject to referendum in those states.

Maryland's share is $200, based on the budget adopted. There is opportunity for a lot of good to come from the Council. More peaches to be marketed requires more sales "push". It must be done and here's a chance to try it.

Have You Paid Your 1942 Membership?

PLEASE NOTE

The Executive Committee decided to reduce the Maryland Fruit Grower to 4 issues per year, instead of the usual 9 printed and 3 mimeographed issues. Higher costs of paper and printing; actual scarcity of mailing envelopes; reduced advertising and generally reduced revenue with more expenses, are the causes. Even now, more paid memberships would help. The issues will run 8 pages but may be larger, according to budget limits. Issues will be released in February, May, August, November, and possibly December, if a comprehensive program for the annual meeting is issued. Type size may be reduced, and words cut to a minimum. This is our effort to meet war conditions. Mimeographed material also will be cut to a minimum.

Read the Ads and Remember our Advertisers

COLD STORAGE REPORT

Agricultural Marketing Service, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture gives the following cold storage figures for apples: February 1, 1941—Barrels, 62,000; Western boxes, 10,239,000; Eastern boxes, $6.076,000; Bushel baskets, 5,762,000. Total bushels 23,016,000. January 1, 1942--Bushels, 61,000; Western boxes, 13,671,000; Eastern boxes, 6,116,000; Bushel baskets, 5,762,000. Total bushels 25,732,000. February 1, 1942--Barrels, 45,000; Western boxes, 11,101,000; Eastern boxes, 4.589,000; Bushel baskets, 4,281,-000. Total bushels 20,106,000. The total for February 1, 1942, includes 1,804,000 bushels and boxes held by S. M. A.

FREEZE INJURY

There have been reports to rather severe injury to peach buds in various parts of Maryland, as well as in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Tennessee, and New England. These reports are true, but the degree of injury will not be known until blossoming time. Unless orchards show severe injury, it is best to plan to spray and prune as usual.

MUSS MUSSOLINI'S PLANS. BUY BONDS AND STAMPS.

CLEAN-UP TIME

Growers usually begin cleaning up around the orchards in spring, and with the expected shortage of labor, and general higher costs of things, Dr. C. Graham, Extension Entomologist repeats the suggestions often made, but which may be of more importance at this time than ever before. His clean-up suggestions include:

1. Remove stubs, and split, broken and dead branches which serve as over-wintering shelters for codling moth worms. Pruning should be flush with the point of origin. Cover cuts more than 2 inches in diameter with wood preserving pait to hasten healing and prevent rotting. Clean old wounds, crotches, cracks, and cavities of all debris. Burn all prunings to kill insects hibernating in them.

2. If trees have not been scraped and banded, scrape them now. Don't pare down to live bark. If chemically treated bands have been used on the trees remove old bands and burn to kill hibernating larvae that may be underneath, before moth emerge in the spring.

3. Remove and burn all trash and debris scattered about the orchard such as boards, broken crates, and sacks, under and in which insects are liable to hibernate.

4. Screen all openings in packing houses and storehouses so that moths which develop within will be unable to leave and infest nearby orchards. Packing houses and storehouses are among the most serious sources of infestation. Roadside stands near orchards should be similarly screened.

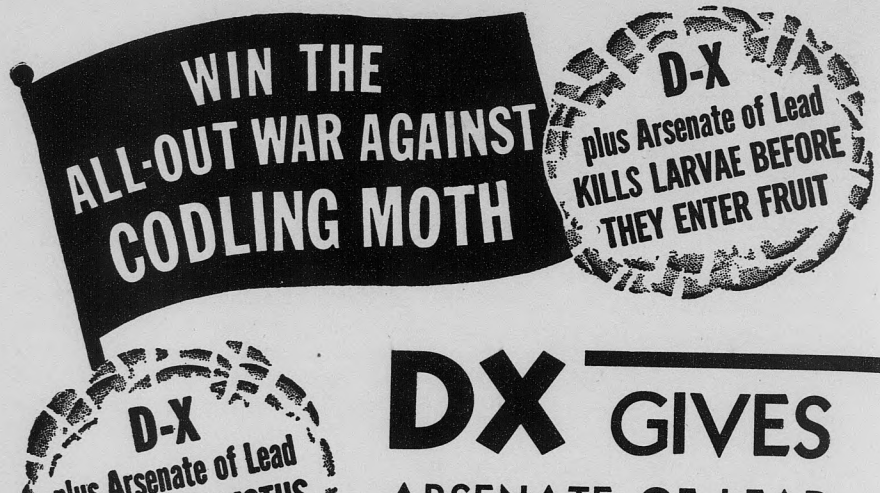
5. Crates and baskets which furnish likely sites for insect hibernation should be stored in screened sheds or storehouses during the spring and early summer when moths are emerging. If this is not practical, they should be dipped in boiling water to kill codling moths before the moths emerge from their cocoons.

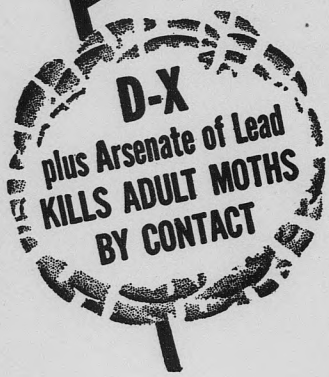
The United Fruit Company, handling mostly tropical fruits, has started a million dollar radio program. "The World Today", carried 5 times a week at 6:45 p. m. Eastern War Time over 36 stations of Columbia network. The 15 minute program carries world news, but advertises fruits of all kinds. Apple and peach growers are getting a real present handed to them in this program. A fine gesture on the part of United Fruit Company.

But we must not neglect our own advertising organizations. Rather we must build them up, and every grower should participate to the best of his ability.

Horticultural Society membership is due in January. One dollar brings the Maryland Fruit Grower, the Annual Proceedings, and American Fruit Grower to members. Send cash or check to A. F. Vierheller, College Park, Maryland. The American Fruit Grower will be sent to paid-up members, if payment is received before March 15.

There is strong demand for scrap iron. Between 90,000 and 100,000 tons of baling wire is used annually for baling the American hay and straw crop. Farmers are being asked to use the wire a second time. Every farm and orchard is littered with old junk machinery and parts. Look around. Maybe there are some things that may be converted into a useful tool or implement. Then take the rest of that junk to the junk dealer. It's a source of some profit, but even more it is a part of a patriotic duty.





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